

## THE URGENCY OF POLITICAL EDUCATION FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Maya Mustika Kartika Sari

### Abstract

This article has been written based on the from research on the political knowledge, attitude, skill and partisipatory of beginner voters in Surabaya. The special target is to achieve the procurement of sense about student beginner voters who studied in university. This research used the qualitative approach supported with quantitative data. This research analyzed the descriptive data that spoke out through the deep interview with informants. It found that partisan-pragmatism has color the respondents' attitude towrad choice of attitude. Its strengthened with the attitude of apatisme who appeared against the ideal of political values, then the pragmatism has becomes the reference to make the choices. Political novice voters about the president election and the legislative elections shows that the electoral process is an important thing in the life of a country, but in practice of landscape, pragmatism and transactional mechanism is considered the dominant still do. Students knowledge and information is based on media opinion. It shows a disappointment trough political realities. At their opinion, in one side, political idealism is the most importan thing to conduct but in the action, the pragmatism has becomes their choice. Are very important for giving the right political education for those students. Because, university play a crucial role in world politics. They socialize political elites, serve as sites of political dissent, and form and disseminate dominant ideology.

Keywords : University, politics

### Introduction

In this era of citizen democracy is not enough to just have the political knowledge in all its aspects, but also required to have practiced critical skills such as listening skills, identifying, describing, analyzing, evaluating, and creating political problems become public issues. Participatory citizens are required to have skills and abilities interact to communicate thoughts and feelings, monitor public issues and even capable to influence public policy.

According to data from the election commission, in the 2014 elections, there are about 69 million voters are beginner voters. The behavior of the beginner voters in determining their political choice, is based on the persona, populeritas and primordial sentiments. Election commission data in 2009 showed that voters tend to choose large and stable parties as their political choices. That's why many political parties that recruit beginner voters in the arenas of education, including college. How do voters respond to the situation and the condition is a major study in this paper.

The quality of democracy that is built up in Indonesia determined by intelligent choices of youth. As the position of Huntington (1982: 56) that the best democratic model includes three stages substantially, the first stage is the formulation and development of national identity, the second phase is the development of institutions or effective political institutions, and the third stage is political participation. From this condition, the beginner voters should be encouraged in order to position itself as a voter who has proficiency participatory, because after all they are the future generation that is expected to develop a political culture because of his political stance. A special experience in that particular age creates political understanding is

crucial in seeing political experiences in the future (Mannheim in Seymour, 2007: 174).

Politics is the being-together of individuals as well as citizen subjects, the formulation of ideas, run missions, built fate, sacrifice, carved history, and shared meaning. In the common room was built knots (knots) which binds individuals as a community. That space is the dialectic between interiority - that meanings are internalized with political actors - and exteriority - the individual meanings are donated to "shared space" (Jean-Luc Nancy, 1993).

Therefore, the individual as a citizen should be transformed into the subject through a process of "subjectivity", namely the production of a series of actions, phrases, and expressions in the existing field experience, but was able to reconfigure the field experience. with the experience, they will offer a new experience in a value that is constantly changing political constellation.

### Discussion

Politics in the broadest sense is a dimension of power that regulate and direct the social life as a whole. As a means of social construction, politics can not be separated from the will of the social life of the community as part of the universal will of humanity. Politics requires basic epistemological foundation. Now this tendency to give consideration to the rational political decisions that show symptoms of "making political as a science". Community as the largest investor in realizing the legitimacy of social capital should be established in the balance of power dimenasi born of political processes

Civil Society as social capital lies in the assumption that democracy requires citizen involvement in social activities, and the affirmation of the importance of community tenure in giving

value to various state regulations, whether it has the political will of cognitive load or more likely the dominant political temperament. The weakening of the structure of the non-governmental community will be more likely to create hierarchy-economic-political ideology that does not tolerate the existence of a single power rivalry. However, Civil Society are not intended to preclude the state from its role as peacekeepers and referees between a large variety of interests, but may hinder the country from dominating treatment and atomize society.

The strengthening of community resilience in the form of Civil Society states will feel the need to create an open public space, such as increase research funded by the government and scientific considerations underlying the birth of public policies. Thus the stronger countries legitimasinya value beyond legitimacy in formal forms, because it is the State or the power needs legitimacy to be effective for all parties. Power should appear correctly in front of the controlled parties. From this will be born a power cycle of rationalization desire towards pengilmahan political process.

the issue of democracy in the sense of the common forms of communication and public guaranteed free and institutionally. The general communication not only in the perspective of formal political institutions, but involves all layers of social life which allow for opinion-forming public opinion in transforming and strengthening the democratic community satisfaction. Expected then the scientific world is criticism that can be applied in the political world. Because democracy is not only limited to faktualisasi mass by means of a vote that was still far from the concept of democracy in the sense of rational discussion among the community to reach a rational consensus domination free.

In his essay on *The Scientization of Politics and Public Opinion*, Jurgen Habermas saw rationalization as a manifestation of power politics pengilmahan. Its size lies in the extent of intimacy between politics and power relations are established intellectual group. Over much space reciprocal communication between intellectuals and rulers, in turn, allows the intellectuals provide scientific advice to the lawyer-political decision making according to practical needs. At least through the relationships that will take birth as a political character which tends to have the intellectual validity.

Political power is determined by a critical public discussion of political power rationalized. This discussion is only possible in a social area that is free of censorship and domination. In the world of politics and public occurred not domination-free communication that ideally we imagine, it is very dense distorted communication, so that the political world loses its critical function.

This kind of communication is a communication which not only woke up the ideological legitimacy of power but a scientific informative discussion. Here assumed that the progress of society governed by the needs and interpretation of the historical society needs in the

form of a value system, contrary to social interests, as reflected in the value system of society according to the test laid out by the technical possibilities and the technical means of compliance.

Berger and Luckman (Bungin, 2008: 14) explains social reality by separating understanding 'reality and knowledge'. Reality is defined as the quality contained within the realities recognized as having existence (being) which does not depend on the will of our own. Knowledge is defined as a certainty that the realities of the real (estate) and have specific characteristics. Berger and Luckman (Bungin, 2008: 15) says occurs individu creating a dialectic between society and society creates the individual.

This dialectical process occurs through externalization, objectivization, and internalization. The dialectical process has three stages; Berger called it a moment. There are three stages of the event. First, externalization, the outpouring of effort or human self-expression in the world, both in mental and physical activities. It has become the basic nature of man, he will always devote themselves to the place where it is located. Humans can not we understand as the closure is separated from the outside world. Humans tried to arrest him, in this process produced a world, in other words, man finds himself in a world.

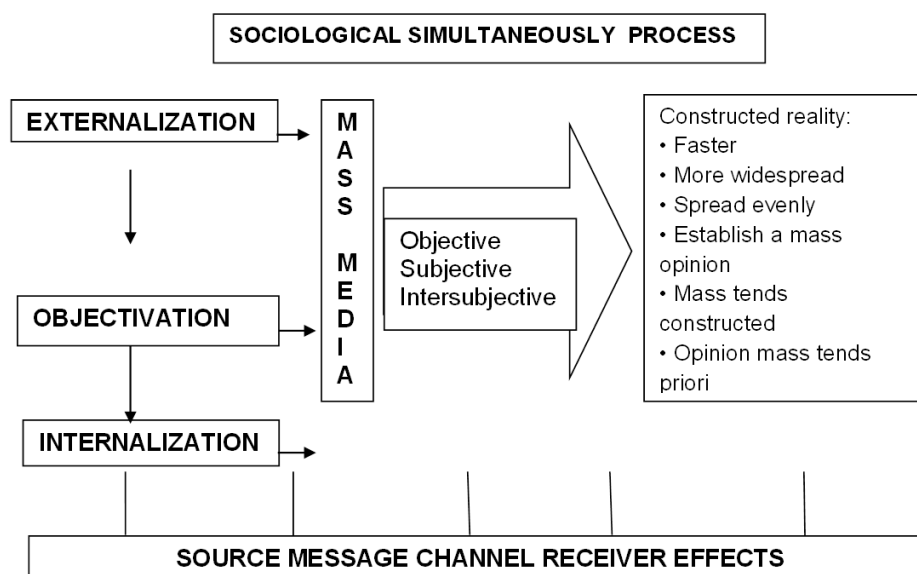
Secondly, objectivization, the results that have been achieved, both mental and physical of the human externalization activities. The results it generates an objective reality that could be going to the producer's own face as a facticity which is beyond and different from the man who produced it. Through this process of objectivization, the community became a reality *suigeneris*. The results of the externalization of the culture, for example, created a tool for the convenience of human life or non-material culture in the form of language. Both the tool and the language is human activity eksternalisasi when dealing with the world, it is the result of human activity.

Once generated, both objects / language as the externalization of products into objective reality. Even he can deal with human beings as producers of cultural products. Culture that has existed as an objective reality, is beyond human consciousness, there is a "there" for everyone. Objective reality that is different from the individual subjective reality. He became the empirical reality that can be experienced by everyone.

Third, internalization. The process of internalization is more a re-absorption of the objective world into the subjective consciousness such that individuals affected by the structure of the social world. Various elements of the world that has terobjektifkan will be captured as a symptom of reality outside consciousness, as well as internal symptoms for awareness. Through internalization, be the result of human society. For Berger, the reality was not established scientifically, there is also something that is handed down by God. But instead, he formed and constructed. With such an understanding, the reality faced double / plural.

Everyone can have a different construction on a reality. Every person who has the experience, preferences, certain education and certain social

milieu or to interpret the social reality that the construction of each



**Figure 1 Process of Social Construction of Mass Media**

Figure 1. Styles used in this paper

The substance of the theory and the social construction of reality approach of Berger and Luckmann is the simultaneous process that occurs naturally through the language of everyday life in a community of primary and secondary spring. Theory and the social basis of this approach is the transition of modern society, in which the mass media as a variable or phenomenon became influential in the social construction of reality.

Theory and the social construction of reality approaches Peter L. Berger and Luckman see variable or phenomenon becomes very substance of the mass media in the process of externalization, subyektivasi, and internalization. is then known as the social construction of the mass media. The substance of the social construction of the mass media is the rapid circulation of information and broad social construction underway dengansangat so quickly and spreading evenly. Jugamembentuk constructed reality that mass opinion, the masses tend cenderunginis priori and mass opinion.

Citizens not only have enough political knowledge in all its aspects, but also required to have skills that are critical intellectual skills practiced like to hear, identify, describe, analyze, assess and create political problems become public issues. In addition, citizens are required to have a participatory skills including ability to interact to communicate his thoughts and feelings, monitor public issues expected to be efficient even influence public policy.

Participatory skills are skills related to the person's involvement and participation. This involves: interacting, monitoring, and influencing such an active role, critical thinking, and responsive

to the political situation. It is related to the ability to interpret political processes of government, both informal processes within the family, the community and non-formal education through formal schooling. Skills voters are closely related to the election.

Beginner voters is voters who are aged between 17 years / already married until the age of 21 years coincide with the election. It is beyond the retired military and police for the first time voting.

When someone interprets social reality is not with vacuum conception. Someone always organize events every day. Experience and reality are organized into reality experienced by a person. From this perspective, the frame classify, organize, and actively interpret our life experiences so that we can understand it.

A frame is an interpretation scheme, where the picture of the world that someone entered is organized so that these experiences have meaning and significance. Frame offers a variety of interpretations of social reality that takes place every day. So voters should determine the attitude, skill and proficiency partisitorisnya when dealing with the determination of political choice of candidates offered by the leaders of political parties.

## Method

Data obtained from interviews, recorded as accurately and detailed as possible so that it becomes a record field. All data were analyzed qualitatively so what data analysis techniques that writers use to analyze the data obtained from the study is a qualitative analysis technique, which analyzes which do not use statistical and

mathematical formulas, describe the issue based on the facts that there then draw a conclusion. These statistics are only used as the data support of all of the facts to be described.

To obtain a profile picture of political voters in Surabaya distributed questionnaires to the respondents (voters) to be asked for their answers. Questionnaires were collected done editing, coding and tabulation.

For participatory skills used to capture information theory and the social construction of reality approach of Berger and Luckmann as a simultaneous process that occurs naturally through the language of everyday life in a community of primary and secondary spring. This involves: interacting, monitoring, and influencing such an active role, critical thinking, and responsive to the political situation of the phenomenon of mass media, the very substance in the process of externalization, subyektivasi, and internalization.

## The Result

In general overview of the characteristics of voters can be framed in the table below. These characteristics provide a preliminary picture of the profile of voters student respondents in this research. Most of them have had political affiliations may be due to the characteristics of urban areas dominated by middle class and the mass media became the main reference in the dynamics of urban information. Students struggling with the daily tasks that many classes use electronic resources. So the political orientation of the growing media construction. As part of a middle-class family, the family of affiliate / parents have also contributed in determining the student political choice

Table 1. Beginner Voters Characteristics

	Beginner Voters Characteristics	Prosentage
1	Sex	
	- Female	49 %
	- Male	51 %
2	Organization Activity	
	- Active	36 %
	- Not Active	64 %
3	Parents Background	
	- PNS, TNI, POLRI	32 %
	- Entrepreneur/Privat Sector	47 %
	- Farmer/Labor	17 %
	- Others	4 %
4	Political Choices	
	- Have a choice	13,5 %
	- Have not yet	86,5%

Characteristics of the different voters with voters who are already involved / have experience in previous elections, namely; (1) has never choose or do a voice in the determination of the TPS; (2) has no experience choosing; (3) have a high enthusiasm; (4) less rational; (5) has the emotional turmoil and high spirits; (6) were subjected to political parties participating in the election since

they were quite large; (7) has a curiosity, try to participate in elections

## Student Political Knowledge

Political Knowledge voters about the election and legislative elections indicate that voters knowledge to be inadequate intelligent voters, voters trust the case to the candidates for various reasons have not convinced expressed in interviews with several informants study. It can be illustrated in the following chart.

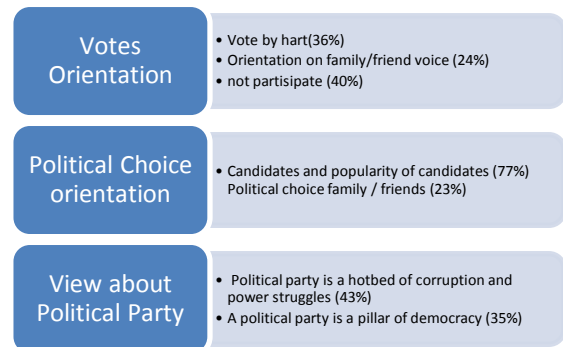


Figure 2. Chart 3 Student Voter Beginners view on Politics and Elections

## Students Political attitudes

Political stance voters about the election and legislative elections showed that the attitude-partisan pragmatic attitude coloring preferences of respondents. It was reinforced by the attitude of apathy that appears to the values of the political ideal, so the attitude of pragmatism be used as a reference option.

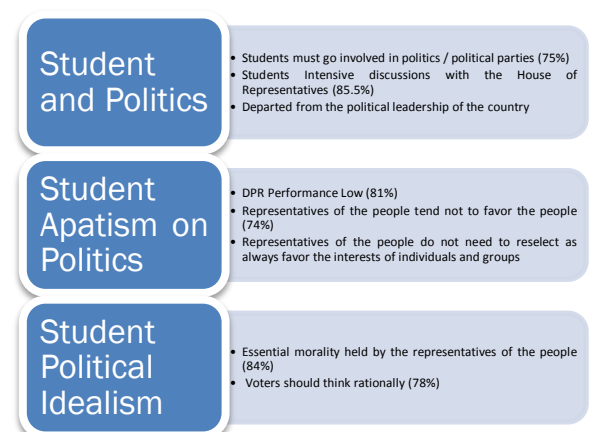


Figure 3. Chard 4. Overview of Student Political Attitudes

## Students Political Assessment

Assessment voters on election politics and legislative elections show that the electoral process is important in the life of the state, but at the level of practice, pragmatism and transactional mechanisms are still considered to be dominant.

General Election and Legislative politics dominated by money than attitude.



Figure 4. Chart 5. Students Political Assessment

There are several fundamental reasons that cause voters to have a strategic position and significance in the election or the election of 2013 and 2014 elections; (1) quantitatively voters is relatively large group of voters from any election; (2) voters is one of the segments that have distinctive patterns of political behavior, unruly / predictable; (3) there is a concern that voters will tend to abstention, whether by reason of the confusion that determine the choice of many political parties, administrative technical, pragmatic, is not important; (4) the respective parties claimed to be the most suitable political party / cares to channel the aspirations of first-time voters, so that almost all political parties are trying to determine a strategy to influence and gain the support of voters by engaging them in the political activity

Characteristics of beginner voters at least can be classified into 4 categories: (1). Voters who are loyalists-sentimental, namely, political choices are caused by factors naturalist considerations (culture) and ideological (religious). (2). Voters who are emotional-irrational in making political choices that tend to be based emotional bond without critical thought on the pros and cons of the choices. (3). Voters who make the political choice only on the shape represents (delegate) a particular candidate without any hope. (4). Voter mobilization practical-pragmatic, participating in a political choice as mobilized by local political elites to choose a particular candidate in exchange for a certain material.

Catherine barner (2001) mentions, the pattern of public empowerment or political education of voters in the frame can be done through three stages. First, voters information or voter education more toward the election of technical information, such as voting procedures, place, date of choosing, and the terms pemilihan. Kedua, voters education, namely, the empowerment of voters have entered the stages of philosophical, sociological, psychological, and the importance of an election / legislative elections, as well as public participation in the democratic system. Third, civic education or public empowerment as a political entity consider the human rights of citizens in a democratic system.

The third stages of public empowerment is to be done properly, carefully, consistently, and

simultaneous in this country, if we want to memujudkan actual voters. In the election / legislative elections, the pattern of empowering voters to be done simultaneously and not be stopped in one step, in order to create public awareness on the meaning of the election / elections for the legislative changes in the future fate of a region / nation. In order to achieve these objectives, this research tries to do the engineering model of political education for first-time voters in the era of political skepticism and pragmatism, to be able to revitalize the political values rooted in the values of nationalism and citizenship.

In the context of education for students, political education is defined as a planned effort, consciously to give awareness to the citizens who have the right to choose (Alfian, 1990: 245). The awareness effort is done so that the voters understand the urgency of events elections.

Another political education has an important meaning and strategic in order to encourage the citizens (voters) to have adequate knowledge of the political, as well as an awareness of the importance of the ideal political system.

On the other hand, political education also provide insight on citizen that to change the existing political reality into an ideal political system, which, among others, marked a change in the new political culture. This condition is often tempting idealistic society become apathetic and some non-voters (white group). There in lies the urgency of political education. On one hand it can function as a political socialization (preservation of political values) are considered good long. On the other hand, political education can serve to make political reforms (political reform), a political change that predictable, and well-planned.

## Conclusion

Based on the description of the results and the above discussion it can be concluded that the knowledge, attitudes and political assessment of students in Surabaya shows some of the following things

a. Political knowledge of students about the election and legislative elections indicate that voters knowledge to be inadequate intelligent voters, such as the candidate voters trust has not lead to a rational political disclosed for various reasons. Students tend to be based on knowledge-based information from media opinion, information berangkatdari not tested and can be used as a reference truth.

b. Political stance voters about the election and legislative elections showed that the attitude-partisan pragmatic attitude coloring preferences of respondents. It was reinforced by the attitude of apathy that appears to the values of the political ideal, so the attitude of pragmatism be used as a reference option. Confidence voters have not led to the collective values in creating a common good. Political rationality that developed more leading to political pragmatism.

c. Assessment of student politics and legislative elections show that the electoral process is important in the life of the state, but at the level of practice, pragmatism and transactional mechanisms are considered still dominant done. General Election and Legislative politics dominated by money than attitudes and goodness (virtue) politics. Public officials do not represent the attitudes and perceived political goodness. Disillusionment with the political reality that, on the one hand encouraging student political ideals on the values and ideologies that developed at this time (ideology transnationalism), but on the other hand also encourage students to imitate the practices of politics.

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